



Linn County Routes

Linn County Secondary Road Department

Spring 2022

319-892-6400
1888 County Home Road
Marion, IA 52302
LinnCountyIowa.gov

Spring Preparation & Upcoming Projects

Spring Thaw & Rock Roads

After logging nearly 1,000 hours of overtime clearing snow and ice from Linn County secondary roads, crews are preparing for the spring thaw. As temperatures warm and spring arrives, the 765+ miles of rock surfaced roads in Linn County will be affected by the thaw. There are many factors that lead to the overall condition of rock surfaced roads such as:

- Depth of frost
- Soil and aggregate types
- Exposure to heavy vehicle loads
- Drainage

The most important factor for providing a successful rock surfaced road is drainage. Re-establishing and maintaining crown or slope on a rock road is the focal point of attention for our motor grader operators throughout the year and especially in the spring.



As the spring thaw progresses, crews will blade and repair roads as the roads system allows access. Roads will be prioritized based on the magnitude of the damage. Common repairs include:

- Blading
- Spot rocking
- Coring out and adding larger aggregate

5-Year Plan

Each year, per Iowa code, the Linn County Secondary Road Department presents to the Board of Supervisors an updated 5-year plan laying out the projects and maintenance to take place in the years to come to for the improvement of the County's secondary road infrastructure. Highlights of the current plan include:

- Focusing on repairing and rebuilding bridges rated as poor
 - Six bridge replacements and two bridge deck overlays for 2022
- Maintaining the condition of the paved road network
- Improving the condition of the 765+ mile rock road network
- Performing preventative maintenance
 - Crack sealing, patching, joint resealing, grinding

Find more information and view the full presentations at LinnCountyIowa.gov/Engineer.



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2022 Construction and Maintenance Projects

The following projects are scheduled to be completed by contract and County crews in 2022. The projects listed are in line with the goals highlighted in the Secondary Road Department's 5-Year Construction Plan and 2022 Maintenance Plan.

In addition to the projects listed below, there are more than 70 rock overlay projects planned. Rock overlay projects consist of placing rock on sections of roadway that have drainage, crown, and meet standards for a Class A road. Owners are responsible for the entrance from their property to the county road. The County will work with owners to use existing drives or to improve drives to fit current needs.

Crews also work throughout the year to remove obstructions from the right-of-way, flatten foreslopes, upgrade signage, remove snow and ice, and repair pavement markings.

District 4—Northwest

Bridge Replacement

- Prairie Chapel Road

Culvert Replacement

- Gard Road

District 1—Southwest

Profile Grinding

- N 10th Street

Bridge Replacement

- Hollenbeck Road Bridge

Concrete Paving

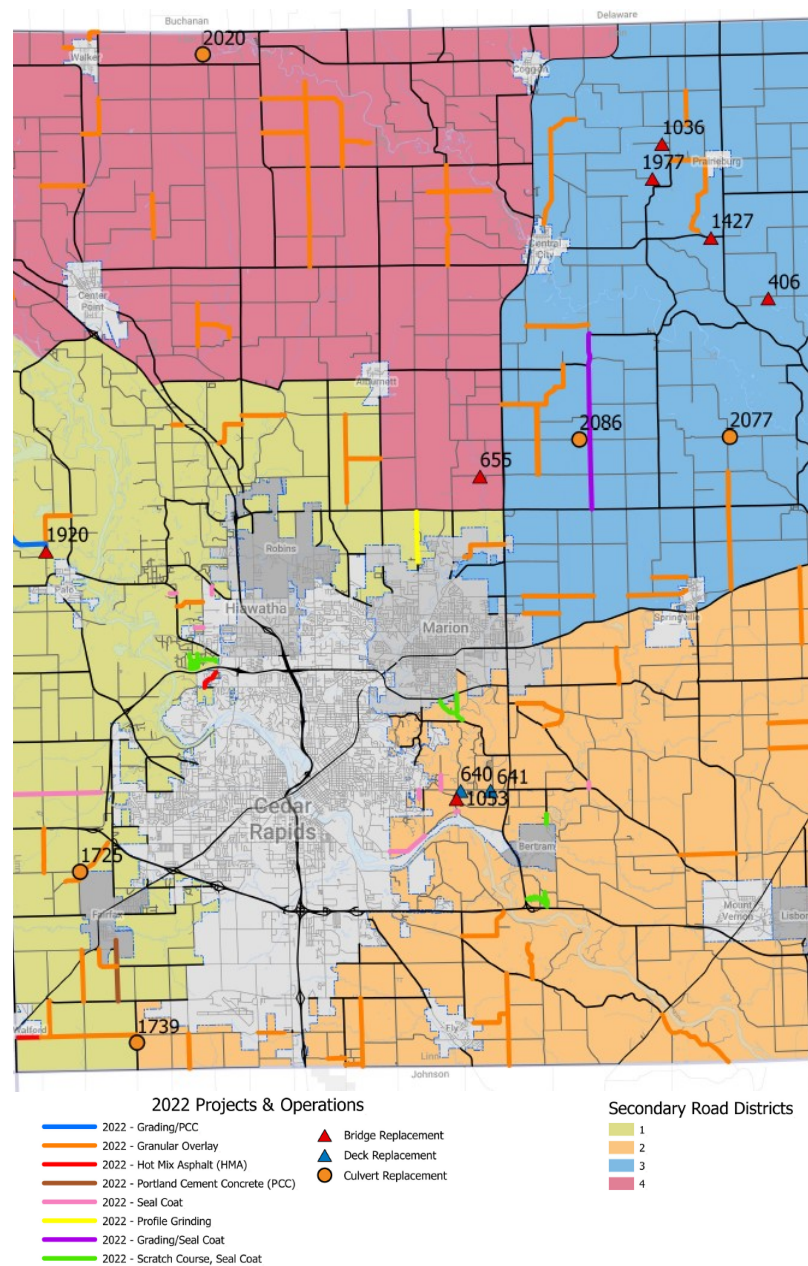
- Bear Creek Road
- Lefebure Road

Asphalt Paving

- Ushers Ferry Road
- Walford Road

Culvert Replacement

- Maple Grove Road
- Angle Road



District 3—Northeast

Bridge Replacement

- Buffalo Valley Lane Bridge
- Burlingham Road Bridge
- Edgerly Road Bridge
- Sawyer Road Bridge

Grading and Culverts

- Jordans Grove Road

Low Water Crossing

- Prairie Chapel Road

Culvert Replacement

- Austin Road
- Merritt Road

District 2—Southeast

Bridge Replacement

- Bertram Road Bridge

Bridge Deck Overlay

- Mount Vernon Road Bridge (over Indian Creek)
- Mount Vernon Road Bridge (over Wanatee Creek)

For an interactive project map with additional information:
<https://www.linncountyiowa.gov/247/Projects>

Bertram Bridge Relocation Project

The Bertram Road Bridge was built in 1876 and is designated as “historic,” which encouraged the Secondary Road Department to be creative when making plans for its replacement this year.

In partnership with the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and Indian Creek Nature Center, the Secondary Road Department will relocate the bridge to the Nature Center where it will be repurposed as a pedestrian bridge in their trail system. A new bridge will be built in its place.



Roadside & Mowing Update

The Linn County Secondary Road Roadside staff are gearing up for the busy summer months. Each year, staff perform work including hydroseeding, herbicide applications, tree and brush removal, and spot mowing as part of the 1,000 Mile pilot project in partnership with the Monarch Research Project along Linn County’s Secondary Roads. The 1,000 Mile Pilot project goal is to convert 1,000 miles of roadside rights-of-way to pollinator habitat by 2022 by planting 75,000 mini-prairies in secondary roadside ditches throughout rural Linn County.

The Roadside staff reminds residents that Iowa Code 314.17 prohibits the mowing of roadside vegetation on the rights-of-way or medians on any primary highway, interstate highway, or secondary road prior to July 15. This law is designed to protect roadside habitats for birds until they are ready to fledge and habitats for pollinators. Exceptions built into the law include areas near the corporate limits of a city, areas near inhabited dwellings, areas requiring mowing for visibility and safety, as well as areas requiring mowing for specific vegetation management purposes. More about mowing and the Linn County Roadside program can be found at [LinnCountyIowa.gov/Roadside](https://linncountyia.gov/Roadside).



Get Notified

Sign up to receive updates on construction projects straight to your phone or inbox!

Go to [LinnCountyIowa.gov/NotifyMe](https://linncountyia.gov/NotifyMe) and scroll down to the Alert Center.

- Subscribe to Construction Project Updates for general information.
- Subscribe to individual projects to receive detailed information on road closures and construction progress.

Adopt-A-Roadside

The Linn County "Adopt-A-Roadside" Program allows individuals and organizations an opportunity to improve the quality of our road rights-of-way. These opportunities have the potential to:

- Reduce litter along roadsides
- Improve the environment and beautify roadsides
- Building broad-based community support for anti-litter and right-of-way beautification programs.

Visit [LinnCountyIowa.gov/Engineer](https://linncountyia.gov/Engineer) or call 319-892-6400 to learn more or to sign up.

Dust Control

Individuals having dust control applied to county roads adjacent their property must obtain a permit through the Linn County Engineer's Office. Dust control may be applied by Linn County, a private contractor, or the property owner.

Sign up for dust control by:

- Filling out a form on our website at LinnCountyIowa.gov/Engineer.
- Contacting our office at 319-892-6400 or engineer@linncountyiowa.gov to have a form sent via email or mail.

Instructions for completion are available with the form.

Types of Dust Control Available through County

There are options for dust control on County rock roads. The County offers calcium chloride, oil, and seal coat. Dust control must be applied to a minimum of 150 feet of road with additional length in 50 foot increments. Private contractors offer additional products. Please note that no product will produce a completely dust free experience.

Chloride—\$0.75 per foot per application

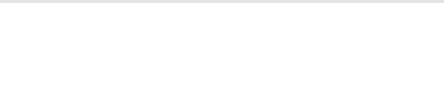
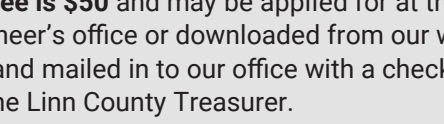
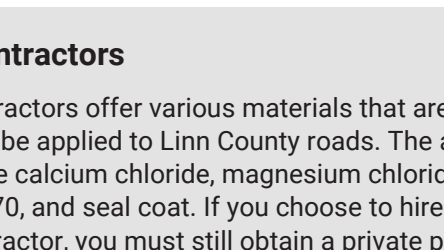
Calcium chloride is a liquid salt solution sprayed directly to the rock surface. Calcium chloride draws water from the air thus maintaining some effectiveness in dry weather. It is water soluble. Two applications per year are recommended. *Pictured right.*

MC-70(Oil)—\$4.00 per foot

Asphalt cut back is placed on the rock surface and a light layer of rock or sand is applied to help cover liquid until it hardens. A permit for oil is for a single application that may last a full season or more if maintained well by the owner. Owners planning to seal coat must have intact oil or apply oil as a tack coat prior to seal coat application. *Pictured right.*

Seal Coat—\$4.50 per foot (over existing oil or seal coat)

A seal coat is thicker cut back and rock chips placed on a prepared base. Seal coat requires MC-70(oil) to be placed as a tack coat. Surface becomes dust free over time with rain and traffic. *Pictured right.*



Dust Control Sign Up

First Sign Up Period: April 1 - May 10

- First Application of Calcium Chloride
- Application of Oil (MC-70) or Seal Coat
- Application by Private Contractor - **Permit Cost \$50**

Second Sign Up Period: June 1 - July 10

- Second Application of Calcium Chloride
- Application by Private Contractor - **Permit Cost \$50**

Preserving Seal Coat and Oil

If your dust control is well maintained, you may be able to get another season out of the application. If you want your seal coat or oil inspected, you must apply for a retain permit. This permit **does not guarantee** that your surface will be preserved. Please have your dust control reviewed early enough to allow you to sign up for a new application if it cannot be preserved.

The **permit cost is \$50** and is **non-refundable**. Property owners with an approved permit for the calendar year may obtain up to one ton of cold mix asphalt to patch their road section. Seal coat and oil sections will be torn up only when the County views them as a traffic problem. No notification by Linn County is required prior to returning road to a rock surface.

Private Contractors

Private contractors offer various materials that are approved to be applied to Linn County roads. The approved materials are calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, lignin, soy oil, MC-70, and seal coat. If you choose to hire a private contractor, you must still obtain a private permit. **The permit fee is \$50** and may be applied for at the County Engineer's office or downloaded from our website, completed, and mailed in to our office with a check made payable to the Linn County Treasurer.

Embargo

Spring thaw along with spring rains can cause the roads to be soft and easily damaged by heavy loads and traffic. To help protect the road from damage or destruction, Linn County may restrict vehicles operating on secondary roads for up to 90 days.



Those who need to use the road and are above the embargo weight limit can obtain an embargo permit from the Engineer's Office. This typically applies to school buses, garbage trucks, and construction deliveries.

- Permit fee — \$50
- Copy of Certificate of Liability Insurance with Linn County as additional insured must be provided.
- Permittee is responsible for any damage that may result to the road.

The embargo does not apply to County maintenance vehicles, emergency vehicles, or implements of husbandry.

Road Signage

Roads may be closed for construction, flooding, or maintenance to keep everyone safe or to allow materials to cure before traffic is allowed back on the road. Drivers not following the road closure signs are putting themselves and the workers in danger. Drivers who do not follow the road closed signs may be ticketed and invoiced for any damage caused to the road, in addition to any damages caused to their personal vehicle.

Road Closed vs Road Closed to Thru Traffic



- Signs are blocking traffic to keep vehicles out
- No traffic allowed in or out
- Impassible or unsafe conditions within closure
- Signs still allow access by sitting on shoulder or by staggering
- Traffic allowed to locations with the closure
- Traffic not allowed to drive through without a destination within the closed road

Locations

Engineer's Office

1888 County Home Road, Marion 319-892-6400

Main Shop

1944 County Home Road, Marion 319-892-6400

District Shops

District #1

Morgan Creek Shop, 1206 Stoney Point Road NW, Cedar Rapids
Toddville Shop, 3170 Cora Mae Lane, Toddville

District #2

Mt. Vernon Shop, 788 Cedar River Rd, Mt Vernon
Walford Road Shop, 650 Walford Rd. SW

District #3

Drexler Shop, 4720 Drexler Rd, Central City
Whittier Shop, 721 County Home Road, Springville

District #4

Alice Shop, 3375 Central City Rd, Center Point

For additional contact information, visit our website at LinnCountyIowa.gov/Engineer and click on Staff Directory.

Sign Up for Reminders and Notifications

- News releases & announcements
- Dust control
- Newsletters
- Construction project updates & road closures
- Snow removal
- Calendar

Visit LinnCountyIowa.gov/NotifyMe to sign up.

Connect With Us on Social Media

Facebook: Linn County, IA

Twitter: @LinnCounty

LinkedIn: Linn County

Look for our Linn County neighborhood communications on NextDoor!

Road Closure Map

To see a map of current road closures and restrictions, please visit LinnCountyIowa.gov/Engineer and select Road Closures & Restrictions.

From this webpage, you can subscribe to receive closure notifications for Linn County and other counties. **Be aware that not all counties use this notification system.**